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Gender and Scholarly Publishing: What Students Need to Know

Lucretia McCulley

University of Richmond, lmcculle@richmond.edu

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Gender and Scholarly Publishing: What Students Need to Know

Lucretia McCulley, Head of Scholarly Communications, University of Richmond

Abstract

As women and gender studies students emerge as citizens of the world, how can we educate them on scholarly communication issues? What role, if any, does gender play in successful scholarly publishing? How is open access publishing affecting global access to scholarship on gender? How do students' lives on the Web influence their understanding of copyright?

Women and gender studies students need to understand the economics and legal aspects of scholarship, both as consumers and content creators. They need to be able to thoughtfully discuss who owns information, who controls it and who has access to it. Students also need to understand recent research and discussions about the "gender gap" in scholarly publishing. The poster will examine the above questions and issues and offer examples and ideas of how librarians can effectively teach and lead discussions about scholarly publishing, copyright and open access information.

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Learning Activities

#1

- Ask students to read articles on the recent research on gender and scholarly publishing.
- Why are women represented highly in certain fields?
- How does that change how we read and interpret information?
- Do these studies reflect gender discrimination in higher education?

#2

- Ask students to examine the bibliography of a current paper or project.
- Can they identify the gender of the authors?
- Search for background information on 2-3 authors.
- Interview one of the authors on the topic of gender and publishing.

#3 - Copyright Scenarios:

- Who owns the copyright to your academic papers?
- You would like to share a favorite journal article on your blog so that you can friends can read it. Can you post it within copyright guidelines?
- You are preparing a video for a class presentation and you would like to use the Weird Al song, "Word Crimes" as introductory music. Are you allowed to do this?
- On a class blog, you inserted a photo of Chris Rock hosting the Oscars. You checked the permissions and they state that it may be used for educational, non-commercial purposes. May you use the photo legally?

WGSS Program Applications

Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies (WGSS) students produce wide-ranging assignments, such as an activist "Gender Action Project" in a sophomore-level course, various digital storytelling projects and a Research Methods/Capstone course for the senior thesis preparation. Throughout the various courses, information on issues of open access, copyright, and publishing are interwoven into library research sessions. Entry level courses may only include a brief conversation or activity on copyright and Creative Commons licensing, while upper level students might spend time exploring the literature and research on the gender gap in scholarly publishing. Learning activities can be adapted to various levels and courses.

Connections: Critical Pedagogy and the ACRL Framework

Exploring the myriad of issues related to gender and scholarly publishing offers the opportunity to embrace the tenets of feminist pedagogy, critical pedagogy and the ACRL Framework for Information Literacy. Feminist and critical pedagogy provides the groundwork for students to question current scholarly publishing practices, such as diversity representation, access to information, as well as open research and open educational resources. The study of such issues also supports the following Frames for Information Literacy: 1) Authority is Constructed and Contextual 2) Information Has Value 3) Scholarship as Conversation.